

Dear Madam or Sir, I am writing my comments in regard to the possible "Rezoning" for the Gilman Paper Mill property.

I have lived in this area since 1989 and fell in love with the quaintness of the area. Aside from the smell of the paper mill. I have watched our area bloom and then falter, but the continual beauty of the environment that we have here hasn't been disregarded. When the paper mill shut down, it was a terrible blow to many, many people in this community. The environmental mess that was left behind was incredible. Just so sad to see the papermill decay along with the economy and the residents of this town. We watched another company come in with "big money and big pipe dreams". Sadly , that company folded and left the mess that they created behind, once again the hopes of having more employment opportunities in this area were dashed.

Now, we have another company wanting to come in with their "big money and pipe dreams"! They want us to Rezone the area, for their needs, not the communities or the environment. We are avid boaters along with many others in this area. The beauty and the peacefulness that resides on our marshes and rivers is there because we do not have large industrial barges going in our marshes and our rivers. I personally, and it is only my gut feeling, think that this company is going to come in , bend the council members to their will, (because of their big plans)put on a big show and be there one day and gone the next.

I am not opposed to the Gilman property being made into "something" useful and unhurtful to our needs and the environments needs. I am opposed to big corporations coming to our area with promises that have no intention of keeping. Further more, the North River, isn't that large, how would the large barges propose navigating the slimness of the marsh shores?

In conclusion, Madam or Sir, you are in the position to continue the integrity of St. Marys and I hope you take it to heart. I understand that we are need of more employment opportunities in this area, especially since I am one of the unemployed, but sacrificing our land to dreams that are only dreams of this cooperation isn't worth it.

In closing, the saying , "Once bit twice shy" I would hope would guide your decisions in this matter. Listen to the people. We matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Mary Lynne Howard